

In the claims: The claims are as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

a first authentication server and other authentication servers each receiving respective unique realm names;

the first authentication server receiving a request for authentication of a terminal; and

during authentication between the terminal and the first authentication server, the first authentication server transmitting to the terminal a reauthentication identity including the unique realm name assigned to the first authentication server.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

an authentication network element receiving a request for reauthentication transmitted by the terminal using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name; and

the authentication network element determining from the reauthentication identity included in the request the unique realm name.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

the authentication network element forwarding the request to the authentication server indicated by the unique realm name included as part of the reauthentication identity; and

the terminal and the authentication server indicated by the unique realm name performing reauthentication.

4. (Previously presented) An authentication server, comprising:

means for performing authentication; and

means for transmitting to a terminal requesting authentication a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name uniquely identifying the authentication server.

5. (Previously presented) An authentication server as in claim 4, further comprising:

means for receiving a request by a terminal for reauthentication, wherein the request includes the reauthentication identity, and for determining from the reauthentication identity the unique realm name included in the request.

6. (Previously presented) An authentication server as in claim 5, further comprising:

means for forwarding the request to another authentication server if the unique realm name indicates the other authentication server.

7. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in an authentication server, with said computer program code comprising instructions for transmitting to a terminal requesting authentication a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name uniquely identifying the authentication server.

8. (Previously presented) A computer program product as in claim 7, further comprising instructions for receiving a request by a terminal for reauthentication, wherein the request includes the

reauthentication identity, and for determining from the reauthentication identity the unique realm name included in the request.

9. (Previously presented) A computer program product as in claim 7, further comprising instructions for forwarding the request to another authentication server if the unique realm name indicates the other authentication server.

10. (Currently amended) A system, comprising a plurality of terminals, a plurality of authentication servers, and at least one content server, the terminals operative so as to request content from the content server after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or another of the authentication servers, wherein at least two of the authentication servers—(23a 23b) are as in claim 4.

11. (Previously presented) A system, comprising a plurality of terminals, a plurality of authentication servers, and at least one content server, the terminals operative so as to request content from the content server after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or another of the authentication servers, wherein at least two of the authentication servers are as in claim 5.

12. (Previously presented) A system, comprising a plurality of terminals, a plurality of authentication servers, and at least one content server, the terminals operative so as to request content from the content server after authentication and occasional reauthentication with one or another of the authentication servers, wherein at least two of the authentication servers are as in claim 6.

13. (Previously presented) A terminal, comprising:

means for requesting reauthentication of a communication session between the terminal and a content server;

means for receiving from a first authentication server a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name assigned to the first authentication server; and

means for transmitting to an authentication network element a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name.

14. (Previously presented) A terminal as in claim 13, wherein the means for transmitting to an authentication network element a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name includes the reauthentication identity in an identity response packet according to an Extensible Authentication Protocol.

15. (New) An authentication server, comprising authentication protocol components configured to:

perform authentication; and

transmit to a terminal requesting authentication a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name uniquely identifying the authentication server.

16. (New) An authentication server as in claim 15, wherein the comprising authentication protocol components configured to are further configured to:

determine from the reauthentication identity the unique realm name included in a request in by a terminal for

reauthentication, wherein the request includes the reauthentication identity.

17. (New) An authentication server as in claim 16, wherein the comprising authentication protocol components configured to are further configured to:

forward the request to another authentication server if the unique realm name indicates the other authentication server.

18. (New) An authentication network element, comprising:

means for determining from a reauthentication identity included in a request for reauthentication transmitted by a terminal a unique realm name included in the request and uniquely indicating an authentication server; and

means for preparing a message for forwarding the request to the authentication server indicated by the unique realm name.

19. (New) An authentication network element, comprising authentication protocol components configured to:

determine from a reauthentication identity included in a request for reauthentication transmitted by a terminal a unique realm name included in the request; and to

prepare a message for forwarding the request to the authentication server indicated by the unique realm name.

20. (New) A terminal, comprising:

means for requesting reauthentication of a communication session between the terminal and a content server;

means for receiving from a first authentication server a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name assigned to the first authentication server; and

means for transmitting to an authentication network element a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name.

21. (New) A terminal as in claim 20, wherein the means for transmitting to an authentication network element a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name is configured to include the reauthentication identity in an identity response packet according to an Extensible Authentication Protocol.

22. (New) A terminal, comprising authentication protocol components configured to:

request reauthentication of a communication session between the terminal and a content server;

obtain from a message from a first authentication server a reauthentication identity including a unique realm name assigned to the first authentication server; and

transmit to an authentication network element a request for reauthentication using the reauthentication identity including the unique realm name.

23. (New) A terminal as in claim 22, wherein the authentication protocol components are further configured to include the reauthentication identity in an identity response packet according to an Extensible Authentication Protocol.